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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF MAY 15.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:15 P. M., May 15, 1917, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 21 members and two visitors, including Mr. Oscar Fulda, present.

In the absence of the Outing Committee Dr. Lutz proposed a one-day trip to Bear Swamp for Decoration Day in which several members engaged to take part.

Dr. Alvah Peterson, of Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J., was elected an active member.

Mr. Davis read a letter from Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., in reference to a permanent fund to which he had offered to give \$500 and asked the Society's acceptance of the gift, subject to the conditions suggested, after the same had been approved by a committee of which he suggested Mr. Woodruff, on account of his legal training, should be a member.

Mr. Dow moved that the President appoint a committee of three with power to approve the conditions and accept the gift.

The motion being unanimously carried, the President appointed as such a committee Messrs. Davis, Dow and Woodruff.

The Secretary read a communication from the Dept. of Agriculture by title.

Mr. Olsen read a paper on "Cicadellidæ in American Museum Collection" illustrated by specimens in which this group was carefully reviewed, especially taxonomically.

Messrs. Davis, Schaeffer, Barber, Lutz and Bequaert discussed some of the questions raised, especially in regard to the retention of names of unrecognizable species, which may tend to falsify faunal lists.

Mr. Wright under the title "Notes on Pacific Coast Collecting" described a wagon journey made with Mr. Geo. Field along the Mexican boundary of southern California with its hardships, especially from thirst and cold night winds. He told of finding a half bushel of *Tegrodera erosa* in dried grass, of a black mass of *Canihon simplex* 12 inches in diameter by 4 inches thick among the leaves at the base of an oak tree, of the many rare Lepidoptera caught, of the rare Dytiscidæ and Buprestidæ found by following the small stream that flows through Devil's Canon as well as the many interesting personal episodes of such a trip, of which the desert sunrise had made one of the deepest impressions. Mr. Wright dwelt especially upon the large number of specimens obtainable in southern California, giving among other instances the picking of 265 *Lycaena melissa* from a small patch of grass and the total of 2,500 diurnals caught on the trip, besides over 1,000 Coleoptera. He spoke also of other interesting captures near San Diego, where he said they now

had a local list that included over 150 Geometridæ, 100 diurnals and at least 150 new species including microlepidoptera.

Mr. Leng read a paper on "Guides to the Literature on Coleoptera" which was discussed by Mr. Schaeffer and Dr. Bequaert, the latter regretting that no entomological review approached the complete character of the *Botanische Jahrbücher*.

Mr. Hall exhibited a fungus-killed caterpillar.

Mr. Davis alluded to Mr. Wright's approaching return to California and expressed the deep regret of himself and many other members that he would no longer be able to attend the meetings.

Mr. Wright said he should nevertheless retain his membership and endeavor to keep in touch with the friends he had made in New York.

Mr. Dow placed at the disposal of the members a box of specimens taken at Claremont, N. H.

#### MEETING OF OCTOBER 2.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on October 2, 1917, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 16 members and two visitors present, including Mr. Williamson, of Royal British Flying Corps.

The President called for summer experiences of members.

Mr. Hall said that with Mr. Watson he had made an automobile tour in July through Lakewood, Ocean City, Cape May, Wind Gap and Delaware Water Gap; and had also visited Nantucket, Marthas Vineyard and Gay Head, where he had met Mr. Jones. The principal object was to take *Satyrus maritima*, in which he had been successful, capturing 250 on Nantucket. Butterflies were scarce on the New Jersey trip.

Dr. Bequaert gave a preliminary account of the Cornell Biological Transcontinental Automobile Trip in which he participated. The party started from Ithaca with three automobiles and a trailer and covered about 6,000 miles through New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, camping and collecting en route. He expressed his appreciation of the executive ability of Dr. J. Chester Bradley, who planned the trip and carried on the details of its management, and to the mechanical talent of Mr. H. H. Knight, which was at times needed in handling the cars, as well as to the congenial companionship of his fellow members in the party. The collecting in the wild country between Mobile and New Orleans, especially in the cypress (*Taxodium*) swamps near Jackson, Ala., and again in southern Mississippi, was very good. Several weeks were spent in Arizona near Tucson, Phoenix and Yuma with good results. Dr. Bequaert gave many amusing instances of the untoward incidents of the long journey and closed by expressing his admiration for San Diego, with its beautiful gardens and parks, including the Torrey Pine Park, where *Pinus torreyana* is carefully preserved. He mentioned also his meeting Dr. Van Duzee at Berkeley and

his gratification at finding how many types had escaped the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Mr. Dickerson said his summer had been spent in nursery inspection work with Mr. Weiss. The abundance of plant lice in the early summer and of caterpillars later had been features of the season. He had also spent some time on Slide Mt. in the Big Indian Valley, Catskill Mts., finding good collecting and comfortable quarters at Joslin House, Oliveria, N. Y.

Mr. DeVyver said he had been occupied in making moving pictures to show life history of bag worm, tussock moth, etc., and offered to exhibit them at a future meeting.

Mr. Davis exhibited a bound volume of the entomological writings of the late John A. Grossbeck, outside of his work on mosquitoes; also a series of *Satyrus alope*, and contributed notes on *Canomyia ferruginea*, *Cicada hieroglyphica*, *Cicindela abdominalis*, *Holcaspis centricola* and *Rhodites gracilis*, the last having been collected by Mr. Woodruff. These will be printed in Miscellaneous Notes.

Mr. Burns exhibited 19 cicadas which he had obtained after four hours' labor in excavating a nest of *Sphecius speciosus* at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island on August 18. The tunnel made by the wasp was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and there were eleven cells, eight of which contained two cicadas each. The cicadas were *Tibicen linnei* and *sayi*, 16♀♀ and 3♂♂.

Mr. Watson exhibited the larva of *Acronycta funeralis* Grote & Robinson, found on *Prunus serotina* at Washington Heights, New York City, August 13, 1917. He said the season in his experience had been two weeks late and very poor for butterflies.

Mr. Mutchler had spent a part of his vacation at Bushnellville near Shandaken, with poor results, on account of rain.

Mr. Nicolay exhibited recent accessions in Californian Buprestidæ and Cerambycidæ received from Mr. Grinnell and spoke of his collecting trips to Lakehurst and Bulls Head with Mr. Woodruff, showing photographs.

Mr. Leng exhibited specimens of the Chilean *Ceroglossus darwini* received from Eduardo Varas Arangua and said that he had been too much occupied during the summer with work on the new Check List of Coleoptera for extensive field work.

Mr. Barber spoke of his visits to Virginia in August and to Yaphank, where he said Camp Upton would eventually come to within half a mile of Miss Weeks's house. He also reported satisfactory collecting.

#### MEETING OF OCTOBER 16.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:15 P. M., October 16, 1917, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 20 members and three visitors present.

Dr. W. H. Wiegmann, of 436 East 5th St., was elected an active member.

The Secretary submitted a statement regarding the Permanent Fund, to be printed in the JOURNAL.

Mr. Woodruff moved that a special meeting of which notification should be sent through the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Sciences, be held October 30, 1917; and that the regular meeting of November 6 be omitted. The motion was carried.

Greetings to the members from Mr. Beyer were received through Mr. Sherman and from our former member, Charles R. Plunkett, through Mr. Davis.

Dr. Bequaert spoke of "Symbiotic Relations between Mites and Hymenoptera" illustrating his remarks, which will be printed in the JOURNAL, by specimens and blackboard sketches.

The subject was discussed by Dr. Lutz, Messrs. Olsen, Dow, Davis, Engelhardt, Richardson and Woodruff, especially in relation to nymphal forms only of the mites being known.

Mr. Barber gave an "Illustration by Specimens of the Synoptic Keys to the subfamilies, tribes and genera of Lygæidæ," referring to his own paper in *Psyche* and using also blackboard sketches.

Mr. Burns exhibited *Papilio cresphontes* and other rare butterflies from Staten Island, his data being printed in Miscellaneous Notes.

Mr. Engelhardt exhibited the larva of *Papilio cresphontes* found in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on *Ruta graveolens*, a member of the Rue family, introduced from the Mediterranean region, and a previously unknown food plant for the species. Its indigenous food plants in this latitude are *Ptelea* and *Xanthoxylum*, and further south, *Citrus*.

Mr. Nicolay reported his recent visit to the National Museum and the extraordinary series of bred Buprestidæ and Cerambycidæ shown him by Mr. Fisher. He exhibited also a box of flies collected this summer, among which Dr. Bequaert noted *Goniops chrysocoma*, Great Falls, Va., June 10, 1917, and *Lepidophora ageriformis*, Boonton, N. J., September 3, 1917, as noteworthy captures.

Mr. Davis exhibited a box of grasshoppers and remarked upon their rapid spread, saying that in 1904 Mr. Woodruff had found *Conocephalus strictus* at Arrochar, Staten Island, on a dry hill where blue bent grass (*Andropogon virginicus*) grew. Since that time the grass has spread widely on Staten Island and the grasshopper has been found all over the island from St. George to Tottenville. *Melanoplus scudderi* has likewise spread over the island in similar dry places.

Mr. Notman exhibited a box of Satyridæ from the Adirondacks and a box of Hemiptera that he had collected this summer for Mr. Barber.

Mr. Leng exhibited a box of *Cicindela repanda* and *C. 12-guttata* also collected by Mr. Notman in the Adirondacks this summer for the purpose of disproving by the differences in size, form and maculation, constant in a large series, the varietal rank erroneously assigned the former in *Genera Insectorum*.

Mr. Davis spoke of the Cicadas and Orthoptera collected for him by Mr. Notman and Dr. Bequaert of the Hymenoptera; Mr. Dow remarked that the

6,000 specimens caught, marked and labelled by Mr. Notman this summer was an unusual record for any collector.

Mr. Richardson spoke of the great numbers of *Cynthia* larvæ on *Ailanthus* along the Harlem River during the past summer.

Mr. Leng called attention to an article in *Science*, October 2, 1917, on the resistance to starvation of Dermestid larvæ and the request for any amount of living larvæ, pupæ or adults by the author, J. E. Wodsdalek, Moscow, Idaho.

#### MEETING OF OCTOBER 30.

A special meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:15 P. M., October 30, 1917, in the American Museum of Natural History, Vice-President Lewis B. Woodruff in the chair, with 17 members and one visitor, Thos. E. Snyder, of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, present.

Mr. Wunder's album of the Society's collection of photographs of entomologists in action was shown by Mr. Davis and additions solicited.

Mr. Dickerson read a paper on *Popilia japonica*, Newn., to be printed in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, and exhibited specimens prepared by Mr. Weiss, of this Japanese beetle, found in a nursery in New Jersey and believed to have been introduced with iris roots. Its work on grape leaves was shown and the extent of its dispersal, not exceeding so far a few hundred feet, was discussed.

Mr. Weiss supplementing these remarks, said the federal government had taken up the matter and an effort would be made in conjunction with New Jersey authorities to exterminate the beetle.

Mr. Olsen read a paper "Notes on *Draculacephala inscripta* Van Duzee," a rare Jassid of which he had records from Staten Island, New Jersey, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. His remarks will be printed in the JOURNAL.

Mr. Davis on request described the occurrence of the insect under electric lights at Fort Myers, Fla.

Mr. Leng read a paper on West Indian Fireflies, which will be printed in the Museum Bulletin and exhibited the collection assembled by Mr. Mutchler from Museum and borrowed material. It was discussed by Dr. Lutz, Mr. Davis, Mr. Dow and Dr. Bequaert, who described the Lampyridæ of the Congo.

Mr. Woodruff exhibited a rare moth *Hyperaschra georgica* found in beating oak at Lakehurst, June 17.

Mr. Olsen exhibited *Limenitis ursula* form *albofasciata* taken in his garden at Maspeth, L. I., September 8.

Mr. Davis exhibited *Cuterebra fontinella* taken at Oliveria, Ulster Co., N. Y., by Mr. Shoemaker, July 1, and mentioned previous records, discussing the habits of these flies.

Dr. Bequaert called attention to the absence of any complete life history, stating that the method of oviposition remains unknown, as well as the differences between the larvæ. In no case has the larva been reared so as to connect it with described adults.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the Bumble Bees collected by Mr. Notman in the Adirondacks, calling attention to the northern species, rare in New York, and to two species of the rare *Psithrus* (or *Apathus*), whose cuckoo habits have been commemorated in verse by Dr. Howard in the "Insect Book." He pointed out that males predominated because the collection had been made towards the end of the season.

Dr. Bequaert exhibited the nest of a mud wasp, probably *Odynerus* sp. given to Mr. Olsen which had been made about a piece of wire projecting from a cement wall.

Mr. Davis remarked that such nests were often made year after year near the same locality.

Mr. Snyder briefly described his trip through the Everglades of Florida, during which he travelled on foot and by canoe from Homestead to Cape Sable, principally to collect termites. Among many interesting episodes he mentioned an extraordinary swarm of horseflies at 4:25 A. M., just before dawn, accompanied by a buzzing noise that sounded like many swarms of bees. The injury in southern Florida to pines by the west Indian *Chrysobothris impressa* was also commented on. Continuing his journey through central Texas, Arizona, California, Oregon, always in search of Termites he found many things of interest, among which he mentioned *Cyllene crinicornis*, chewing mesquite into sawdust in Texas and *Sinoxylon* boring into lead cables in California. In Oregon the trip to Crater Lake in June was made on snow shoes. The return journey was made through Nevada, Utah and Kansas and great collections of Termites was the chief result.